

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior version, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (Original): A processing system for processing a plate shaped sample, comprising:

a conveyor mechanism having a holding portion for substantially horizontally holding a plate shaped sample, said conveyor mechanism conveying the sample held by said holding portion; and

a plurality of processing apparatuses disposed at equidistant positions separated from a driving shaft of said conveyor mechanism,

wherein said conveyor mechanism pivots said holding portion about the driving shaft substantially in a horizontal plane and moves said holding portion close to or away from the driving shaft to convey the plate shaped sample among said plurality of processing apparatuses while receiving/transferring the plate shaped sample from/to each of said plurality of processing apparatuses in substantially horizontal state, and

said plurality of processing apparatuses include:

a separating apparatus for separating the plate shaped sample while substantially horizontally holding the plate shaped sample; and

an inverting apparatus for pivoting an upper plate shaped sample of two plate shaped samples obtained by separation by said separating apparatus through 180°.

Claims 2-40 (Cancelled)